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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
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PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request
(single copies) to persons in the U.S. from the
Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department
of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Room 5922.
Phone: REpublic 7-4142, Ext. 2445.

Citrus Industry of Southern Africa. Foreign Agriculture Report No. 103.

Technological Factors in the Expansion of Agricultural Production in West Europe. Foreign Agriculture Report No. 102.

Agricultural Developments in South Asia: Their Effects on U. S. Farm Exports. Foreign Agriculture Report No. 100.

Major Statistical Series of the U. S. Department of Agriculture: How They Are Constructed and Used. Vol. 1, Agricultural Prices and Parity.
Agriculture Handbook No. 118.

Soft and Miscellaneous Vegetable Fibers Imported Into the United States. A Summary--1909-10 to 1956. Foreign Agriculture Circular FVF 3-57.

Black and White Pepper: World Production and Trade. Foreign Agriculture Circular FTEA 4-57.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS
UP IN AUGUST

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in August 1957, at 41 million pounds (export weight), were 13 percent larger than those for August 1956. The value of August 1957 exports, at \$28.7 million, was 19.6 percent greater than for the same month a year earlier.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco -- 34 million pounds in August 1957 -- were about 4 million pounds larger than August 1956 exports. Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Virginia fire-cured, One Sucker, and all cigar types also were up. Exports of Burley and Maryland were below those for August 1956.

For the January-August 1957 period, total exports of unmanufactured tobacco were practically the same as for the same 8-month period of 1956-- about 259 million pounds. The value of January-August 1957 exports, however, was up nearly 10 percent above the 1956 value. This year the average export price per pound for all tobacco was 69.2 cents per pound, compared with 63.2 cents for January-August 1956. (Continued on page 4.)

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by type and export weight, January-August 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Type	August		Percent change	January-August		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
	:1,000	:1,000	:	:1,000	:1,000	:
	:pounds	:pounds	:Percent	:pounds	:pounds	:Percent
Flue-cured.....	30,171	34,034	+12.8	202,740	206,297	+ 1.8
Burley.....	1,855	1,448	-21.9	18,265	15,531	-15.0
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	1,463	1,504	+ 2.8	16,054	13,976	-12.9
Virginia fire-cured 1/	630	1,329	+111.0	3,220	3,820	+18.6
Maryland.....	858	757	-11.8	7,800	7,555	- 3.1
Green River.....	32	---	---	870	693	-20.3
One Sucker.....	50	421	---	253	1,771	---
Black Fat.....	363	291	-19.8	2,853	2,588	- 9.3
Cigar wrapper.....	279	415	+48.7	2,634	3,113	+18.2
Cigar binder.....	43	250	---	1,250	1,019	-18.5
Cigar filler.....	5	45	---	314	84	-73.2
Other.....	525	494	-5.9	2,542	2,735	+ 7.6
Total.....	36,274	40,988	+13.0	258,795	259,182	+ .1
Declared value	:	:	:	:	:	:
(million dollars).....	24.0	28.7	+19.6	163.6	179.3	+9.6

1/ Includes sun-cured.

United States exports of tobacco products in August 1957 totaled \$6.7 million--up 19.6 percent from August a year ago. Exports of all products, except chewing and snuff, were larger. For the 8-month period January-August 1957, exports of all products, except chewing and snuff and smoking tobacco in bulk, were larger than those for the corresponding period a year ago.

Cigarette exports for January-August 1957 showed an appreciable gain of 6 percent from the same period of 1956.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January-August 1956 and 1957
with percent change

Products	August		Percent change	January-August		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces)...	623	915	+ 46.9	4,744	5,178	+ 9.1
Cigarettes (million pieces)...	1,346	1,524	+ 13.2	10,471	11,132	+ 6.3
Chewing and snuff (1,000 pounds)....	230	83	- 63.9	1,081	1,007	- 6.8
Smoking tob. in pkgs. (1,000 pounds).....	26	37	+ 42.3	360	414	+ 15.0
Smoking tob. in bulk (1,000 pounds).....	349	418	+ 19.8	3,752	3,147	- 16.1
Declared value (million dollars)...	5.6	6.7	+ 19.6	43.7	47.7	+ 9.2

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

KOREA INCREASES
CIGARETTE OUTPUT

Output of cigarettes in the Republic of Korea increased from 15.0 million pounds during the first half of 1956 to 15.3 million in the first half of 1957. Output of cut tobacco declined sharply during the same period from 6.6 million pounds to 5.5 million.

Cigarette output is expected to slip during the second half of the year, and estimated cigarette output for all of 1957 is placed at 29.3 million pounds, compared with a total of 28.3 million in 1956. Manufacture of cut tobacco in 1957 is estimated at 11.0 million pounds--a decline from the 12.3 million manufactured in 1956.

BELGIAN LEAF USINGS UP IN 1957

Belgian usings of unmanufactured tobacco increased in the first half of 1957 to 28.4 million pounds, in comparison with 26.8 million pounds used in the first 6 months of 1956.

Leaf for use in cigarettes showed the largest rise -- 1.2 million pounds -- increasing from 12.9 million in January-June 1956 to 14.1 in January-June 1957. Leaf used in cigars and cigarillos also showed gains over the first half of 1956, while that used for other tobacco products (smoking, chewing and snuff) was lower in the first half of 1957.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Belgium, usings by type of product,
1956 and January-June 1956 and 1957

Product	Calendar Year	January-June	
	1956	1956	1957
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Cigars.....	1,878	831	1,058
Cigarillos.....	4,233	2,022	2,286
Cigarettes.....	25,741	12,934	14,125
Other.....	22,434	11,032	10,939
Total.....	54,286	26,819	28,408

Source: Institut National de Statistique, Bulletin de statistique, July-August 1957.

CUBA ISSUES TOBACCO PRODUCTION REGULATIONS FOR 1957-58 CROP

The tobacco Stabilization Fund of Cuba has issued regulations to control the 1957-58 tobacco crop. The regulations, issued on September 9, are quite comprehensive, strictly prohibiting production practices that usually result in poor-quality leaf. They also sharply reduce the quota on farms which have sold all their crop to the Stabilization Fund for the past 3 years, and they stipulate that the fund will not purchase the crop to be grown this season on such farms.

NEW ZEALAND DRIED APPLE PRODUCTION (CORRECTION)

In Foreign Crops and Markets, October 21, page 6, the text should have read: "New Zealand consumes its entire production; ordinarily, there are neither imports nor carryover stocks. Dried apple production for 1951-57, years ending June 30, is shown below:"

GREEK FRUIT CROP ESTIMATES RELEASED

The Greek Ministry of Agriculture has released the following estimates of production and exports:

Fruits	Production		Exports
	1956	1957 :(Forecast):	1956
	- - - - 1,000 boxes - - - -		
Oranges.....	4,043	4,854	598
Tangerines.....	919	780	157
Lemons.....	1,363	1,184	348
Peaches.....	1,163	1,701	184

Exports of peaches for 1957 are estimated at 365,000 boxes.

MEXICAN BEAN CROP DOWN 12 PERCENT

Strong demand and rising prices for beans is expected in Mexico in 1958 due to a 12-percent decrease in 1957 production as compared to 1956. No significant shortages are foreseen, however, due to a carryover of 1956-crop beans, estimated on October 1 of this year at 2.2 million bags. This reserve, supplemented by the short 1957 crop, estimated at 8.5 million bags, is expected to be almost adequate for domestic requirements until the 1958 crop is harvested.

Imports are expected to increase slightly over present rates during the remainder of 1957 and during 1958.

The bean crop in the Mesa Central was severely damaged by drought during the summer months. The crop is expected to range from 15 to 40 percent less than the previous year in the states of Durango, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Queretaro, and Mexico. Bean production for the remainder of the country is expected to be slightly higher than in 1956. Total production of black beans will be higher, while production of Bayo Gordo and colored beans will be 15 to 20 percent lower than for the previous year.

U. S. exports to Mexico in the last 4 marketing years have been as follows:

Marketing year beginning September 1	1,000 bags
1953-54	391
1954-55	204
1955-56	232
1956-57	175

1957-58 WORLD WHEAT TRADE LIKELY TO DROP FROM RECORD HIGH

World exports of wheat and flour in 1957-58 probably will fall short of the record total of 1956-57. Production increases expected in many importing countries in 1957-58 compared with last year will result in a substantial reduction in import requirements in these countries. Some few countries, mostly small importers, are expected to have smaller crops this year than in 1956-57, with a consequent increase in imports. The increase in import requirements in this group, however, will be insufficient to offset total reductions in the need for imported wheat in other areas.

Total world exports of wheat and flour in the current season probably will exceed the level of all other years except 1956-57. A new record for exports of wheat and flour was set last year when the total of 1,283 million bushels moved in world trade. The new record exceeds the previous peak level of 1,066 million bushels, recorded in 1951-52, by more than 17 percent.

Record exports in 1956-57 are attributable to such factors as an overall increase in demand for wheat due to improved economic conditions; population increases; greatly increased requirements in European countries, both Eastern and Western, due to poor crops; and shipments from the United States under special export programs such as Public Law 480.

BELGIUM HARVESTS LARGER WHEAT, SMALLER COARSE-GRAIN CROPS

Wheat production in Belgium in 1957 is estimated at 27.4 million bushels, 25 percent above the small 1956 harvest. Both acreage and yields are well above the 1956 level. Wheat acreage of 513 million acres is reported the largest of the past 70 years. Yields have been averaging 53.5 bushels per acre, a near-record for that country.

Production of rye is estimated at 7.3 million bushels, about 6 percent less than in 1956. Acreage of 162,000 acres is slightly less than in 1956, continuing a downward trend in this grain in recent years. Prior to 1936, rye acreage in Belgium was well above 500,000 acres, but growers have been showing less and less interest in this feed grain.

Production of barley, now placed at 13.2 million bushels, is about the same as in 1956. Larger yields than last year offset some reduction in acreage. Production of oats is placed at 30 million bushels, smaller than last year because of a substantial cut in acreage and slightly lower yields. Corn production is forecast at 169,000 bushels. This is less than production for any recent year. Yields are indicated to be high, but acreage is only half the 1955 and 1956 acreages.

THREE-FIFTHS OF 1956-57 U. S. FEED GRAIN EXPORTS MOVE UNDER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Feed grain exports from the United States during 1956-57 totaled 6.8 million short tons. About 2.7 million tons, or 40 percent of the total, was sold on a dollar basis. Of the remaining quantity, about 520,000 tons, or 8 percent, moved by way of ICA (International Cooperation Administration) authorization under Section 402, and about 3.6 million tons, or 53 percent, under Public Law 480. Thirteen percent of total feed grain exports were shipped under Title I, one percent under Title II, and about 38 percent under the barter provisions of Title III.

U. S. exports of corn in 1956-57 totaled 4.1 million tons, about 60 percent of total feed grain exports. About 51 percent of all corn exported was sold on a dollar basis.

Exports of barley, sorghums, and oats totaled 1.5 million tons, 810,000 tons and 428,000 tons, respectively. Only 22 percent of the barley, 23 percent of the sorghums, and 26 percent of the oats exported during 1956-57 were sold on a dollar basis.

FEED GRAINS: U. S. exports under government programs,
and dollar sales, 1956-57
(Short tons)

Grain	Public Law 480				
	Title I	Title II	Barter	Section 416	Total P. L. 480
Corn.....	387,996	47,704	1,285,340	40,124	1,761,200
Barley.....	487,008	25,128	259,232	---	871,368
Sorghums.....	---	---	623,672	---	623,672
Oats.....	15,328	---	303,056	---	318,384
Total....	890,332	72,832	2,571,300	40,124	3,574,624

Grain	Section 402 (ICA)	Cash sales	Total exports	Percent cash is of total
Corn.....	227,528	2,063,348	4,052,076	50.9
Barley.....	293,880	325,296	1,490,544	21.8
Sorghums.....	---	185,416	809,088	22.9
Oats.....	---	109,744	428,128	25.6
Total.....	521,408	2,683,804	6,779,836	39.6

U. S. EXPECTS HIGHER FEED GRAIN EXPORTS IN 1957-58

The outlook for U.S. feed grain exports in 1957-58 is favorable. There are several factors in the world situation that indicate increased demand for U.S. feed grains this year compared with 1956-57. Last year's short wheat crop in Western Europe had more-than-average quantities of low quality wheat used as feed, thus reducing the need for feed grain imports. The current wheat crop, however, is generally of higher quality, and the demand for imported feed grains is expected to increase accordingly. As other countries also are requiring increased quantities of feed grains, U. S. exports may be expected to increase.

The United States has a very large supply of feed grains, particularly corn; exports are being emphasized as one means of improving this situation. Shipments under special export programs such as Title I of Public Law 480 are expected to bring about greater movement of feed grains into world trade. In addition, the Commodity Credit Corporation's present policy of selling corn on competitive bids for export should increase feed grain exports.

Total U.S. feed grain exports in 1957-58 are expected to exceed last year's by a substantial margin and may be near the record set in 1955-56. Exports of feed grains in 1956-57 totaled 6.8 million short tons, 1.7 million below the record year.

DUTCH REJECT WEST GERMAN REQUEST FOR SQUARE CHEESE

The Dutch Dairy Commodity Board has denied the request of West German importers for square-shaped cheeses (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 19, 1957). The Commodity Board feels that the square cheese would be more subject to damage than the traditional round-shaped cheeses and that it would be more difficult to obtain an equally distributed salt content in the square molds.

FRANCE EXPORTS MORE BUTTER

During the first 7 months of 1957, France exported 9.4 million pounds of butter, an increase of 5.0 million pounds over the same period a year earlier. Principal markets in 1957, with comparable exports last year in parentheses, are: Algeria, 2.0 million pounds (1.2 million), Switzerland, 1.7 million pounds (0.4 million), Federal Republic of Germany, 1.4 million pounds (0.3 million), Italy, 1.3 million pounds (0.5 million), and French West Africa, 1.0 million pounds (0.5 million).

Imports in January-July 1957 were only 1.1 million pounds, compared with 20.3 million pounds a year ago.

BRITAIN ANTICIPATES SPECIALTY CHEESE EXPORTS TO U.S.

The United Kingdom Milk Marketing Board hopes for development of a U.S. market for British specialty cheeses, and suggests that a reduction in duty rates for such cheeses may be requested at the next GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) conference. British officials have indicated a 15 percent ad valorem rate, with a minimum of 3 cents per pound, as desirable.

The Marketing Board cites the popularity in the United States of other European specialty cheeses as an indication that a market exists for British cheeses. It specifically mentions the following as export possibilities: Cheshire, Double Gloucester, Wensleydale, Leicester, and Blue Stilton cheeses. (Blue Stilton, a blue-mold variety not duplicated in the United States, is not subject to import control. Wensleydale is a blue-mold similar to domestic blue. The other cheeses are cow's milk cheeses similar to Cheddar cheese.)

Cheese prices on the London market have been depressed for the last several weeks, mainly due to large supplies of domestic cheese. British cheesemakers and wholesalers have been continuously pressed to move out their heavy stocks.

For some years cheesemakers in the United Kingdom have been switching from the production of Cheddar cheese to the manufacture of Cheshire. In 1954, it was estimated that of U.K. milk going to cheese 50 percent went into the manufacture of Cheshire cheese (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 4, 1955). Since then, cheese production in the United Kingdom has increased tremendously. Estimated output in 1957 was 250 million pounds--75 percent more than 1955 output.

NETHERLANDS CUTS PRICES ON STORAGE BUTTER

The Dutch Dairy Commodity Board is offering 43.7 million pounds of cold-storage butter at cut rates to the home market. Retailers are offered this butter at 36 cents per pound, and the price to consumers is approximately 41 cents per pound.

To stimulate exports, Dutch exporters are being invited to make bids at a minimum price of 38 cents per pound. Some 1.5 million pounds of storage butter have been moved in this way. There was a similar reduction in domestic and export prices earlier this year to reduce unusually heavy stocks (see Foreign Crops & Markets, March 11, 1957).

Increased milk production, due to favorable weather last spring, is responsible for the large butter stocks.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,
with comparisons
(U. S. cents per pound)

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	1957	Cur- rent	Month earlier	Year earlier	1957	Cur- rent	Month earlier	Year earlier
United Kingdom (London)								
New Zealand, finest	Sept. 26	38.7	38.7	40.5				
Australian choicest	Sept. 26	38.6	38.6	40.4				
New Zealand, finest white					Sept. 26	21.1	22.6	37.1
Australian choicest white					Sept. 26	19.2	20.2	36.0
Australia (Sydney)								
Choicest butter	Sept. 26	46.7	46.7	46.7				
Choicest cheddar					Sept. 26	28.2	28.2	28.2
Irish Republic (Dublin)								
Creamery butter	Sept. 26	54.8	54.8	48.9				
Cheese					Sept. 26	30.6	30.6	30.8
Denmark (Copenhagen)	Sept. 26	36.1	36.1	46.0				
France (Paris)								
Charentes creamery	Sept. 30	75.8	84.3	81.2				
Germany (Kempten)								
Markenbutter	Sept. 25	68.0	68.0	66.5				
United States								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Sept. 20	63.0	61.7	62.2				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)					Sept. 20	36.0	36.0	33.6
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)								
Creamery butter	Sept. 28	49.4	49.4	49.4				
Full cream Gouda					Sept. 20	24.2	23.9	25.7
Edam, 40 percent					Sept. 20	22.3	21.7	23.8
Belgium (Hasselt)	Sept. 26	81.1	78.3	77.3				
Canada (Montreal)								
1st grade creamery	Sept. 14	63.8	64.0	58.6				
Ontario white					Sept. 14	35.4	35.7	34.3

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

AUSTRALIA INCREASES CATTLE SLAUGHTER

Slaughter of cattle and calves in Australia during the July 1956-June 1957 fiscal year was up 5 percent from the 1955-56 fiscal year. Heavy slaughter during the second quarter of 1957 accounted for much of the rise. Cattle numbers are high in Australia now, and the present high slaughter levels are expected to continue through 1957-58. As usual, the majority of cattle were slaughtered in the states of Queensland and New South Wales.

Sheep and lamb slaughter during 1956-57 declined about 4 percent, due to sharp drops in slaughter in Victoria and New South Wales, the two most important sheep-producing states. Sheep slaughter throughout the rest of Australia remained steady. Sheep numbers are unusually high, and slaughter is expected to rise during 1957-58.

Hog slaughter also dropped from 1955-56 levels during 1956-57. Good prices, however, have encouraged farmers to increase hog numbers, and a sharp rise in slaughter is expected during 1957-58.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER; Australia, fiscal 1953-54 through fiscal 1956-57, with percent change from previous year

Period	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
July-June	<u>head</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>change</u>
1953-54.....	4,416	+11	20,992	- 3	1,547	+ 6
1954-55.....	4,485	+ 1	22,234	+ 6	1,884	+22
1955-56.....	4,612	+ 3	20,760	- 7	1,821	- 3
1956-57 <u>1/</u>	4,846	+ 5	19,839	- 4	1,738	- 5
	:	:	:	:	:	-

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics.

Total meat production rose to 27,985 million pounds during fiscal 1956-57, a rise of 2 percent over 1955-56. Production is expected to increase again during 1957-58.

AUSTRALIAN CANNED MEAT
PRODUCTION RISING

Australian canned meat production is expected to rise slightly during the calendar year 1957, although it dropped 6 percent from 162 million pounds in July 1955-June 1956 to 152 million pounds in July 1956-June 1957. Production increased during the second quarter of 1957, but the increase was offset by very low production during the last part of 1956 and in the first quarter of 1957. (See table, page 13)

MEAT, CANNED: Australian production, 1952-53 through 1956-57

Year ending June	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Other	Total
	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>
1952-53.....	129.0	18.6	15.8	48.1	211.5
1953-54.....	106.4	14.8	9.8	29.4	160.4
1954-55.....	113.0	13.6	8.2	37.3	172.1
1955-56.....	114.5	15.0	7.5	25.2	162.2
1956-57.....	104.8	11.0	7.2	29.2	152.2

Source: Australian Meat Board.

Australian exports of canned meat have also risen in recent months. Over 80 percent is exported to the United Kingdom. The states of Queensland and Victoria produce most of Australia's canned meat.

United States imports of Australian canned beef dropped from 99,000 pounds during the first half of 1956 to 18,000 pounds during the first half of 1957.

FRENCH WALNUT CROP FOR 1957 BELOW AVERAGE

French commercial walnut production for 1957 is still estimated at 13,000 short tons, or about half of average. Frost damage suffered by the walnut crop during the early spring of 1957, though not as severe as that experienced in 1956, has had a cumulative effect, resulting in production one-third smaller than the 19,500 tons of 1956.

About 400 tons of stocks, unshelled basis, are reported as unsold in the hands of the trade in the Grenoble and Bordeaux regions.

Exports of French walnuts during 1956-57 amounted to only 8,000 short tons, in-shell basis, or about one-third of the 23,600 tons exported in 1955-56. West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Algeria were the largest purchasers. West German and Algerian purchases were principally in-shell nuts, while United Kingdom imports were mainly kernels. U. S. imports from France in the 11 months September 1956-July 1957 amounted to 694 short tons of shelled walnuts, a considerable decline from the 2,522 tons imported in 1955-56.

Bordeaux Extra Halves from the 1957 walnut crop are being quoted at 97.5 cents to \$1.00 per pound f.o.b. for shipment in November. With 1957-58 French exports expected to be exceptionally low--possibly only 7,000 tons, in-shell basis--the French trade is concerned over possible loss of traditional export markets to other producers.

URUGUAY LIFTS POTATO IMPORT TAXES

The Uruguayan Government has freed potatoes from import taxes. Effective until December 31, 1957, the provision is intended to help curb the rising cost of living

CANADA LOOKS FOR SMALL PRODUCTION OF DRIED APPLES

The 1957 Canadian pack of dehydrated and evaporated apples is not expected to exceed 400 tons, a tonnage approximately the same as that of the preceding year but less than half the average volume of 985 tons produced during 1950-54.

Dried apples represent Canada's only dried fruit pack. The annual pack, however, falls short of Canadian requirements. During 1956, the United States furnished all dried apples imported by Canada; prior to that date, small quantities were also imported from Australia and the Netherlands.

IRELAND PRODUCING MORE HOGS

Irish hog slaughter during 1958 is expected to exceed 1957 slaughter by about 25 percent. Relatively high prices for hogs and abundant feed supplies during the first part of 1957 have encouraged Irish farmers to greatly expand planned production of pigs. The number of bred sows is now very high, which indicates a sharp increase in slaughter during 1958.

Sheep numbers in Ireland continued their steady rise. Sheep prices are favorable at present, and a further increase in numbers during the next year is expected.

Cattle numbers dropped 2 percent in June 1957 from June 1956 due to large exports of feeder cattle to the United Kingdom (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 14, 1957).

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS: Ireland, June 1, 1953-57, with percentage change from previous year

Year	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	1,000 head	Percent change	1,000 head	Percent change	1,000 head	Percent change
1953.....	4,397	+ 2	882	+23	2,930	+ 3
1954.....	4,504	+ 2	958	+ 9	3,113	+ 6
1955.....	4,483	- 1	799	-17	3,269	+ 5
1956.....	4,537	+ 1	747	- 7	3,439	+ 5
1957.....	4,420	- 2	902	+21	3,708	+ 8

SOUTH AFRICAN DRIED FRUIT PACK FOR 1957 SMALL

Production of all dried fruits in South Africa during 1957, now estimated at 10,000 short tons, represents a second successive year of low production. Loss in volume is ascribed to heavy frosts and excessive moisture during the production season.

The dried vine-fruit pack of 1957 though not greatly below the small output of 1956 is down more than a third from 1955 production. The 1957 dried tree-fruit pack is also below average, with current estimates placing it at 60 percent of 1956 production and 52 percent of 1955 volume. The years shown in the following table are those during which South African dried fruits were harvested and packed.

FRUITS, DRIED: South Africa, production by types, estimates 1955-57

Type of fruit	1955	1956	1957 Preliminary
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Raisins.....	4,800	2,900	2,200
Currants.....	1,000	1,100	1,000
Sultanas.....	4,100	2,900	3,200
Total (vine fruits)	9,900	6,900	6,400
Apricots.....	900	800	600
Peaches.....	1,900	1,000	700
Pears.....	300	300	100
Prunes.....	3,300	3,300	1,600
Other 1/	500	600	600
Total (tree fruits)...	6,900	6,000	3,600
Total (all fruits)	16,800	12,900	10,000

1/ Includes apples, figs, plums, nectarines, almonds, walnuts, and meebos (salted, dried apricots).

GAMBIA FORECASTS INCREASED PEANUT PRODUCTION IN 1957-58

Peanut production in Gambia in 1957-58 is forecast at 100,000 short tons, unshelled basis, an increase of 3,000 tons from the previous year. Peanut exports are forecast at 84,000 tons, also a 3,000-ton increase from 1956-57.

The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board purchases, shells, and exports Gambian peanuts entering into world trade. Producer prices, paid by the Marketing Board, probably will be £31-0-0 per long ton, unshelled, (\$97.20 per short ton) in 1957-58, the same price as paid last year.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA EXPECTS RECORD
PEANUT CROP IN 1957-58

Commercial peanut production in French West Africa in 1957-58 is forecast at a record 1,190,000 short tons, unshelled basis. This production would represent a slight increase over the revised figure of 1,014,000 tons commercially produced in the 1956-57 season. An estimated 10 percent of the total production is saved for seed and 15 percent is consumed locally. The outlook for commercial production in the various producing areas for 1957-58, as of September 15, is as follows:

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Production in short tons, unshelled</u>
Senegal	937,000
Niger	138,000
Soudan	88,000
Others	27,000
	<u>1,190,000</u>

In Senegal, the major producing area, production is expected to be around 20 percent larger than last year, a result of increased acreage. Agricultural officials are alarmed about this increased acreage. Fallow lands and crop rotations have almost disappeared, and, as the use of fertilizers is not extensive enough to compensate, officials fear that the soil may be depleted and peanut production reduced in future years.

CEYLON'S COPRA AND COCONUT OIL
EXPORTS DECREASE SHARPLY

Ceylon's exports of copra and coconut oil in the first half of 1957, at 31,261 long tons, oil basis, were one-third below shipments in the first 6 months of 1956.

Copra exports in January-June totaled 12,730 tons, a decrease of over one-third from the first half of 1956. India, the only major market, took 99 per cent of the total.

Coconut oil exports from Ceylon in the first 6 months of 1957, at 23,241 tons, were about half those of January-June 1956. Sales to Canada, Egypt, and most European countries fell sharply, while shipments to Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan were up slightly.

Exports of desiccated coconut in January-June totaled 397,960 tons, a decrease of nearly one-fifth from the first half of 1956. The United Kingdom continued to be the leading market, taking nearly one-half of the shipments.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Ceylon, exports, average 1935-39,
annual 1955 and 1956 and January-June 1956 and 1957

(Long tons)

Country of destination	Copra				Coconut oil			
	Average	1955	1956 1/	January-June	Average	1955	1956 1/	January-June
	1935-39		1956 1/	1956 : 1957 1/	1935-39		1956 1/	1956 : 1957 1/
Canada.....	—	—	—	—	8,523	15,200	15,260	6,716 : 1,901
West Indies.....	—	—	—	—	881	—	—	—
Denmark.....	1,605	—	—	—	35	—	—	—
France.....	354	—	—	—	347	200	—	—
West Germany.....	2/1,482	—	—	—	2/1,200	4,217	4,617	4,315 : —
Greece.....	1,526	—	—	—	120	—	—	—
Italy.....	6,541	2	—	—	1,724	23,690	19,257	9,335 : 2,707
Netherlands.....	—	—	—	—	—	12,860	10,037	6,450 : 1,820
Sweden.....	—	—	—	—	3,573	95	10	10 : —
Switzerland.....	—	—	—	—	84	1,813	1,663	1,218 : 112
United Kingdom.....	420	—	4	—	14,160	10,572	11,736	6,804 : 3,871
Other Europe.....	4,573	—	1	—	5,913	395	—	— : 3/1,018
China, Mainland.....	—	—	—	—	(4/)	2,200	—	—
Cyprus.....	—	—	—	—	146	134	251	196 : —
India.....	42,553	63,440	56,274	18,719 : 12,564	10,769	11,683	9,504	5,471 : 4,913
Iran.....	—	3	63	24 : 50	6	1,182	4,196	1,725 : 1,903
Iraq.....	20	774	279	227 : 2	315	173	750	330 : 675
Pakistan.....	—	3,915	331	331 : 54	—	5,600	2,757	825 : 1,723
Israel.....	—	—	—	—	15	—	5	5 : —
Syria.....	60	—	—	—	164	34	101	77 : —
Other Asia.....	360	215	774	112 : 60	2,400	2,482	479	235 : 211
Egypt.....	425	—	—	—	2,433	3,331	2,290	1,754 : 826
Union of South Africa.....	—	—	—	—	2,597	295	241	134 : 137
Other countries.....	8	4	—	—	3,608	1,070	1,766	428 : 1,424
Total.....	59,927	68,353	57,726	19,413 : 12,730	59,013	97,226	84,920	46,028 : 23,241
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ All to Poland. 4/ Less than .5 ton.								

Compiled from official sources.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN CANADA
AT SAME LEVEL IN SEPTEMBER

Cotton consumption in Canada during September 1957 was 30,000 bales (500 pounds gross), the same level as in August, and also the same as the 30,000 bales consumed in September 1956.

SPAIN'S COTTON PRODUCTION
DOWN IN 1957-58

Cotton production in Spain during August-July 1957-58 is currently estimated at 195,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 13 percent from the record crop of 223,000 bales in 1956-57. Cotton acreage was down about 9 percent this year, amounting to 450,000 acres, compared with 494,000 in 1956-57. The reduced acreage was attributed to late spring rains in certain areas, which made cotton planting impracticable. The crop is about 3 weeks late this year and is not expected to reach the mills in volume until late October or November.

About 94 percent of the 1957-58 crop in Spain is American upland-type cotton, reportedly Middling or higher in grade, and averaging 31/32 to 1 inch in staple. Approximately half of the upland cotton acreage is irrigated. The balance of the crop is Egyptian-type cotton, all produced under irrigation.

Cotton consumption in Spain in 1956-57 was estimated at 450,000 bales, up 8 percent from the 415,000 bales consumed in 1955-56. A continuation of this upward trend is expected in 1957-58, when consumption may reach 470,000 bales. Mills report a strong demand for textiles, and some plants are operating several hours overtime per week. The increased demand is attributed to improved consumer purchasing power resulting from general wage increases in 1956. Wages were increased on the average by almost 7 percent in April, and another increase in November, granted by government decree, amounted to an average raise of 40 percent or more.

Cotton imports into Spain during August-July 1956-57 were 226,000 bales, up only 5 percent from imports of 216,000 bales in 1955-56. Imports from the United States were 174,000 bales, or 77 percent, of the total, compared with 146,000 bales and 68 percent in 1955-56. Other sources in 1956-57 were Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, and Greece. Quantities imported this year, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Brazil 29,000 bales (61,000); Mexico 15,000 (none); Egypt 5,000 (8,000); and Greece 3,000 (none).

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 144,000 bales, a 3-month supply, and about the same as the 145,000 bales held a year ago. Much of the cotton held this year, however, is of shorter staples, while longer staples are in short supply. The National Cotton Center reportedly anticipates some problems in meeting mill requirements of long staples, pending further imports.

Distribution and prices of all cotton imported into Spain are controlled by the government--through the National Cotton Center. Individual orders for cotton from foreign sources are submitted to this official agency, which combines them for bulk purchasing abroad. Government established prices to importers in Spain for the various growths and qualities are substantially higher than the cost of the cotton. For example, the price to mills for United States cotton, Middling 15/16 inch has been 52.38 cents per pound since May 1957. Egyptian Karnak, GFG, in September 1957 was priced at 78.30 cents per pound. Brazilian Type 4 cotton was 51.62 cents per pound. The official exchange rate was increased in April 1957 from 38.95 to 42.0 pesetas per dollar.

Prices for Spanish-grown cotton also are established by the government. The minimum price for Middling 15/16 inch and better qualities for both the 1956 and 1957 crops was 45.90 cents per pound.

PAKISTAN'S COTTON EXPORTS DECLINE

Pakistan's cotton exports of 506,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-July 1956-57 declined 30 percent from exports of 723,000 bales in 1955-56, and reached the lowest level for cotton exports since partition from India in August 1957. Sharpest declines were in exports to Mainland China and the United Kingdom, with moderate reductions to Italy, Australia, and West Germany. Exports to France increased slightly. Japan is the major destination of Pakistan's cotton, receiving about half of the 1956-57 total.

Quantities exported to principle destinations in 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 259,000 bales (266,000); France 91,000 (82,000); China 49,000 (127,000); Hong Kong 37,000 (51,000); United States 21,000 (22,000); West Germany 17,000 (34,000); United Kingdom 11,000 (54,000); Netherlands 3,000 (7,000); Italy 2,000 (31,000); and Australia 2,000 (20,000).

Cotton production in Pakistan during 1957-58 is estimated at 1,400,000 bales, the same as in 1956-57, and only slightly below the 1955-56 crop of 1,420,000 bales. Cotton acreage in 1957-58 was 3,500,000 acres, compared with 3,560,000 in 1956-57 and 3,540,000 in 1955-56.

There was an increase in production of Desi cottons in 1957-58 and also of the newly developed long-staple variety, "Lassani". Production of the Lassani variety amounted to about 6,000 bales in 1957-58. This cotton is reported to be of 1-1/16 to 1-3/32 inches in staple. Some mills that ran tests reported that Lassani spun as high as 80-100 counts of yarn. Desi and Comilla cottons accounted for 14 percent of total production in 1957-58 compared with 10 percent in 1956-57.

An important feature of Pakistani cottons is their production in one-variety zones which, combined with restrictions on movement of seed cotton from one zone to the other, helps ensure segregation and identification of varieties in trade channels. Practically all upland type cotton is irrigated.

Cotton consumption in Pakistan during 1956-57 was estimated at 825,000 bales, up slightly from consumption of 810,000 bales in 1955-56. Increased mill consumption offset a slight decline in the use of raw cotton by cottage industries, resulting from the trend toward use of more mill-produced cotton yarn for handweaving.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 250,000 bales, considerably higher than the 160,000 bales held a year earlier. Most of the unsold cotton, about 85,000 bales, held at Karachi this season is reportedly of low quality which will be used by the domestic industry. Desi cottons were estimated to comprise about half of the unsold stocks at Karachi.

Pakistan imported approximately 25,000 bales of U.S. cotton in 1956-57, compared with 19,000 bales in 1955-56--the first year for any cotton imports since partition. United States cotton was generally well received by Pakistan manufacturers, after some early problems of spinning "neps" were eliminated.

Although Pakistan paid for U. S. cotton in local currency, imported cost to mills was fairly high. Upcountry mills also had the additional cost of transportation from the port of Karachi. Import duty on raw cotton amounts to 3.35 cents (U. S.) per pound.

Prices of Pakistani cotton were generally above the world level throughout the year. Cotton export taxes also have been maintained--at 4.29 cents per pound for Desi cottons, and 6.16 cents for all other exportable varieties. Spot quotations in Karachi on October 17, 1957, in equivalent U. S. cents per pound, were: 4F Punjab S. G. 20.93; 289F NT Sind, S.G. 22.84; 289F NT Sind, R.G., 21.18; 289F Punjab, S.G., 23.48; Sind Desi 20.80; and Punjab Desi 19.91. These quotations do not include the export tax.

BELGIUM SETS APPLE AND PEAR IMPORT DATES

The Belgian Ministry of Agriculture has informed the trade that import licenses for pears will be granted after December 1. The date for apple imports is now set for February 1. Advancing the apple date to January 1 is being advocated, and the Ministry is studying the matter.

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